



City of Austin

Leslie Pool, Council Member District 7

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CM Pool Budget Amendment #5

Co-Sponsors: Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, Council Member Paige Ellis

Equitable Access to Abortion

SD23: Health & Environment, Economic Opportunity and Affordability

Renewed and Expanded Funding for Logistical Support for Austinites

Seeking Abortion Care

- Council approved a budget amendment to the FY20 budget of \$150,000 for logistical and supportive services for Austinites seeking abortion care. After careful consideration, the City of Austin awarded the contract to Jane's Due Process, with Fund Texas Choice, and Mama Sana Vibrant Woman as sub-grantees.
- NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, Lilith Fund, and other abortion access organizations are requesting that Council recommit to and increase funding logistical support for abortion to cover an increase in need.
- The request for FY21 is \$250,000 to provide logistical support services for Austinites who need assistance to access abortion services.
- Program funding will cover incidental costs, not the cost of abortion procedures.
- The \$100,000 increase in the funding request (from FY20 to FY21) addresses the heightened need for economic support as a result of COVID-19 dislocation and devastation. It will help ensure that a greater portion of funds will go to direct services.
- Refreshing the appropriation of funds for this critical program will ensure continuation for another year.

"The City of Austin formally affirms its commitment to reproductive freedom and quality reproductive healthcare,¹ and recognizes a person's right to make their own decisions to access safe and affordable abortion as an essential component of healthcare."²

Commitment to Abortion Access and Equity

Covered Services

- *Transportation*
- *Lodging*
- *Child Care*
- *Lost Wages*
- *Case Management*
- *Doula Services*
- *Food Needs*

Restricting access to abortion disproportionately affects people who already face barriers to high-quality healthcare – immigrants, people of color, people who are low-income, and people who are transgender and gender nonconforming.³ These communities find it extremely difficult to access safe and affordable abortion care, thus worsening entrenched health, economic, racial, and gender inequities. Expanding access to abortion can help overcome these inequities.

The City's most recent public statements of commitment to reproductive health access and abortion access are in several ordinances and resolutions: "Abortion is Healthcare" resolution (Resolution No. 20170126-045), "Rosie's Resolution" (Resolution No. 20181004-035), and Resolution No. 20190606-100, directing the

City Manager to determine an appropriate response to Alabama's statewide abortion ban and stating opposition to statewide abortion bans.⁴

¹ As affirmed by the City Council's passage of Ordinance No. 20100408-027, Resolution No. 20130321-045, Resolution No. 20140925-082, Resolution No. 20141120038, and Resolution No. 20151015-039

² Resolution No. 20170126-045: <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=270659>

³ <http://austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=307312>

⁴ <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=341300>